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PAGE 01 STATE 017146

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017146

FOR FRANK CRIGLER

E.O.11652: GDS

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW PAPER SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION SCIENCE AND CULTURE (CIECC)

1. THIS PAPER PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF PRINCIPAL MATTERS AT THE SIXTH MEETING OF CIECC. IT IS SUPPLEMENTAL BY POSITION PAPERS ON SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS.

2. IN THE PAST, CIECC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY WORKMANLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTICED A RECENT TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE MEXICANS TO POLITICIZE TECHNICAL CONFERENCES WHICH MEXICO HAS HOSTED BY PUSHING PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES IN WHICH MEXICO HAS AN INTEREST. THE EDUCATION MINISTER OF MEXICO, AS HOST, WILL BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOM. PERHAPS NOTHING UNTOWARD WILL OCCUR AT CIECC BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO RESIST DIPLOMATICALLY ANY PRESSURES TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE SUBJECT MATTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 017146

-- DESPITE THESE REAL CONCERNS, WE ESTIMATE THAT THIS MEETING, AS IN THE PAST, WILL BE LARGELY TECHNICAL AND OBJECTIVE, SAVE FOR THE RHETORICAL FLOURISHES, PARTICULARLY ON OPENING DAY. THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ARE INTERESTED IN THE BENEFITS THAT FLOW TO THEIR COUNTRIES FROM THESE OAS PROGRAMS AND WILL WANT THE MEETING TO DO ITS JOB.

3. THIS YEAR, THE PLEDGING SESSIONS FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CIECC PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. OUR TOTAL FOR THIS YEAR IS \$13.59 MILLION. THE PLEDGE IS IN TWO PARTS: (1) \$7.59 MILLION FOR A BASIC FEMCIECC PROGRAM SUPPORTING AN ALREADY AGREED TO \$11.5 MILLION BUDGET; (2) \$6.00 MILLION TO A SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAM (MAR DEL PLATA) THUS SUPPORTING A 50 INCREASE IN THAT BUDGET (THE LATINS EXPECT ABOUT A 50 INCREASE). THE U.S. PLEDGE FORMULA FOR THE BASIC PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO MEET OAS MEMBER COUNTRY REQUESTS THAT WE STOP MATCHING THE PRECEDING YEARS' PAYMENTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR WHICH HAS A HIGHER BUDGET LEVEL. WE ARE UNABLE TO PLEDGE AID FUNDS FOR STRICTLY CULTURAL PROJECTS IN THE SPECIAL PROJECTS (MAR DEL PLATA) PROGRAM OR TO MAKE A PLEDGE FOR THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR CULTURE.

-- FOR A FULLER DESCRIPTION OF OUR PLEDGING SEE POSITION PAPER ON AGENDA ITEM C-2.

4. AN OUTGROWTH OF THE NEW DIALOGUE STIMULATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAS BEEN TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AS AN IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT ON DEVELOPMENT. THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP AND SUB-GROUPS TO STUDY THIS MATTER AND TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MINISTERS WHEN THEY MEET IN BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH. SOME LATINS SEEM TO PREFER A MECHANISM, OTHER THAN THE OAS, TO CARRY OUT SUCH INITIATIVES AS MAY BE DECIDED UPON BY THE MINISTERS IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

5. TO COMPLICATE COORDINATION IN THIS AREA, UNDER RESOLUTION 141 PASSED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CIECC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 017146

HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN APRIL. THE OAS SECRETARIAT, LIKE ANY BUREAUCRACY, IS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE GA RESOLUTION AND THE RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS THE INDICATED MECHANISM FOR CARRYING OUT ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

SPECIAL MULTILATERAL, MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS.

6. THE U.S. MISSION TO THE OAS HAS URGED THE SECRETARIAT TO DEFER ACTION ON THE GA RESOLUTION PENDING A DETERMINATION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AS TO WHAT, IF ANY, ROLE THE OAS SHOULD HAVE IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT FOR NOW, THE OAS CAUSE COULD BEST BE ADVANCED BY ENSURING THAT ON-GOING PROGRAMS IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BE WELL CONCEIVED AND IMPLEMENTED.

-- OUR EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN THE SECRETARIAT'S DEVELOPING A DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE CIECC MEETING WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S., ALTHOUGH SOME ADDITIONAL CHANGES MIGHT BE DESIRABLE.

7. CULTURE IS AN AREA OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MEXICO. THE OUT-GOING CHAIRMAN OF THE OAS INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF CULTURE IS A MEXICAN, WHO HAS FREQUENTLY USED THIS COMMITTEE AND OTHER OAS FORUMS TO CHIDE THE U.S. FOR NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR CULTURE. THIS MAY BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM AT CIECC.

8. THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE ALSO ENDORSED THE IDEA THAT CULTURAL PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR MAR DEL PLATA FUNDING. THE CORE ARGUMENT IS THAT THE RESOLUTION OF MAR DEL PLATA REFERS TO QTE MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS UNQTE AND HENCE CULTURAL PROJECTS SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. MEXICO'S DELEGATION MAY STRONGLY PUSH FOR THIS CHANGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 017146

9. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT EVALUATIONS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION THAT THE MULTINATIONAL PROJECT ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY BE EVALUATED. WHEN APPROPRIATE, WE SHOULD INQUIRE OF THE SECRETARIAT AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINDINGS OF EARLIER EVALUATIONS AND SUPPORT THE PLAN TO SYSTEMATIZE IN-DEPTH EVALUATIONS OF PROJECTS. INGERSOLL

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